



Police Jury Association

NEWS LETTER

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May 7, 2009

2009 REGULAR SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT #2

Wednesday, May 6th at 6:00pm was the deadline for filing bills in the 2009 Regular Session. After reviewing the remainder of the 1418 bills currently on file for the Session, the PJAL is tracking 205 pieces of legislation.

PJAL PACKAGE UPDATE

- HB 88** McVea Allows police jurors to be employed in the government of the U.S. This bill was brought to enable police jurors to work with the US Census Bureau in the upcoming census. **The bill was favorably reported out of the House Committee and will likely be heard on the House floor Monday or Tuesday.**
- HB 353** Monica Increases the contract limit for public works projects from \$100K to \$250K. This bill was brought because the current contract limit is not adequate to meet the needs of parishes. **LABI and the Contractor associations had some opposition but a compromise was worked out to increase the contract limit to \$150K. Passed out of committee with the amendment and all interested parties have agreed to support the bill through the process. Likely will be heard by the full House on Monday.**
- HB 765** Gallot Constitutional amendment decreasing the allocation to the state of revenues from the general severance tax on oil and natural gas production, resulting in more of that money going to the parishes where the oil and natural gas are produced. **Bill passed by the House Ways & Means Committee without opposition on Wednesday. Now heads to House Civil Law to review the ballot language.**
- HB 777** Champagne Clarifies that appointments to certain boards and commissions and appointments to fill vacancies in elective offices are not included in the prohibition against "other transactions" under the ethics code. **Passed the House Committee and will likely be heard on the House Floor on Monday.**

OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST

HB 745 - PEARSON CONTRACT AUDITORS

HB 745 by Rep. Pearson is a bill to clarify the language of current law to affirm two existing Attorney General's Opinions that hold that local sales and use tax collectors ARE ALLOWED to enter into contracts with contract auditors that bill on an hourly rate but include a cap on the maximum fee payable based on whether the audit leads to the collection of unpaid taxes. The bill was heard partially in the House Ways & Means Committee on April 29th. Due to time constraints it was rescheduled for May 6th. The Committee ran out of time and the bill is again rescheduled for next week. These contracts have been in use by over 30 parishes around the State for over 10 years. The bill will resolve the confusion on this issue once and for all. The LA Assn of Business and Industry opposes the bill, so we need your help.

House Ways & Means Committee Members: Greene, Chairman / Smith, Jane, Vice Chairman / Baldone / Barras / Burrell / Carter, S. / Danahay / Guillory, M. / Henry / Hoffmann / Honey / Jackson, G. / Nowlin / Perry / Richard / Richmond / Ritchie / Robideaux / Templet

HB 840 – WHITE

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HB 840 by Rep. White proposes to mandate that each parish have a Parish Emergency Management Advisory Committee. The committee would consist of the Parish or Police Jury President (as Chairman), the Sheriff, a Mayor, a Fire Chief, a Police Chief, and EMS representative. The municipal representatives would be selected by the municipal officers. The committee would have to meet at least twice per year and would provide advice to the Parish on emergency management issues. Also, the committee would issue an annual report on parish emergency readiness to the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. This bill will likely be heard in committee in the coming week.

Contact the PJAL and let us know your thoughts on this mandated committee.

HB 1 (BUDGET) AND HB 2 (CAPITAL OUTLAY)

SCHEDULED TO BE HEARD BY THE HOUSE ON THURSDAY

HB 1, the General Appropriations Bill is scheduled to be heard on the House Floor on Thursday beginning at 9:00am. Thereafter, HB 2, the Capital Outlay Bill, will be heard.

HB 480 RICHMOND

PROHIBIT LOCAL GOVERNMENT USE OF RED LIGHT CAMERAS

HB 480 by Rep. Richmond from Orleans proposes to ban local governments from using red light cameras as have been put in place in a number of cities and parishes. The PJAL is opposing the bill on the grounds that this is a decision that needs to be made at the local level.

ROLL FORWARD

The biggest issue the PJAL will face this session is the issue of Roll Forward. A few Legislators want to completely repeal local roll forward authority. Most, however, are primarily concerned with the notice provisions for roll forward meetings and the use of roll forward by NON-ELECTED taxing bodies, like Fire Districts. One common proposal is to have the Parish Council or Police Jury have to vote to ratify or veto the decision by the non-elected body to roll forward millages. **THESE BILLS WILL BE IN THE SENATE REVENUE & FISCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ON MONDAY**

WE NEED TO KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE PROPOSAL TO HAVE PARISHES RATIFY OR VETO THE ROLL FORWARD DECISION OF NON-ELECTED BODIES!

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Gov. Jindal was recently reported to have indicated that he would not oppose the concept of gradually increasing the Homestead Exemption by inflation each year! We need to hear your views on what should be done. **Should the homestead exemption be raised?**

POLICE JURY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE DAY THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2009

Schedule

Registration at 9am

State Capitol Visit from 10-11:30am

Legislative Update from 9-10am

Lunch from 11:30-1pm

Legislative Day Registration Fee \$60 Spouse Fee \$35

Includes breakfast, shuttle to Capitol, and lunch

Contact Jane Lambert: jane@lpgov.org or call the PJAL

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FURTHER UPDATES – COMMITTEE SCHEDULES – BILL TRACKING LISTS**